GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1582
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
RESUMPTION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LINKS FROM KOLKATA
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government of West Bengal forwarded proposals to the Ministry for resumption of International air links from Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposal for resumption of KLM flight from Kolkata to Amsterdam and rerouting of existing flight for connecting Kolkata with Frankfurt have also been sent by the Government of West Bengal; and

(d) if so, details of action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a),(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Proposal has been received to link West Bengal with China, Japan, neighboring countries of Bangladesh, Nepal & Bhutan as well as for starting a flight from Kolkata to Singapore/Hong Kong. Request has also been received for resumption of KLM flights from Kolkata to Amsterdam and rerouting of any existing flight for connecting Kolkata with Frankfurt.

(d) With regard to air linking of Kolkata with foreign countries, the designated airlines of Bangladesh, UK, Bhutan, Malaysia, Jordan, Singapore and Thailand are operating international services out of Kolkata. Besides, Kolkata is available as point of call to serveral countries under our Air Services Agreements. In recent times, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand have enhanced their services out of Kolkata. Indian Airlines has also decided to introduce 3 more direct flights to Bangkok from Kolkata. Besides this, Air India has also plan to link Kolkata with Bangkok and Singapore on the network of Air India Express. Air India also plans to commence operation between Kolkata and London subject to availability of airport slots at London and aircraft capacity.